S-359
St. James M.E. Church
Oriole vicinity
private

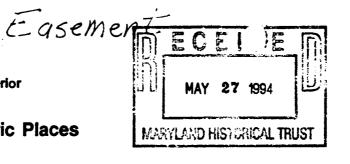
1885, c. 1900

Built in two stages, this combination frame church marks the intersection of the Champ and Oriole Roads. Set in the south pier of the main block is a marble plaque inscribed 1885, while the front towers and multi-pane windows were added around the turn of the twentieth century. The old exterior double-door entrance is clearly visible within the vestibule. The heavy molded four-panel doors are topped by a four-light transom. Most notable is the unconventional pair of multi-level bell and entrance towers separated by a single story gabled section pierced by a tripartite window. Directly west of the church is the accompanying cemetery with above grave markers.

NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

...ational Register of Historic Places Registration Form



OMB No. 10024-0018

S - 359

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

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	31. JANES III	.THODIST ETTOCOT	and choken		
ther names/site n	number				<u> </u>
2. Location					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
street & number _	Intersection	on of MD 627 and	Champ Roa	ıd □ no	ot for publication
ity or town	Oriole			@	9 vicinity
•		le MD county Son	merset	_ code039 zip	code 21848
. State/Federal	Agency Certification	1			
Historic Places	and meets the procedura	meets the documentation stand I and professional requirements Register criteria. I recommend See continuation sheet for ad	s set forth in 36 CFR I that this property be	Part 60. In my opinion,	the property
Signature of cer	rtifying official/Title	Date			
State of Federal	l agency and bureau				_
comments.)	he property meets	does not meet the National Re	agister criteria. (□ Se	ee continuation sheet for	or additional
	mying omciai me	Date			
Signature of Cer					
	l agency and bureau				
State or Federal	l agency and bureau Service Certification	1			
State or Federal	Service Certification		e of the Keeper		Date of Action
State or Federal National Park hereby certify that the	Service Certification property is:		of the Keeper		Date of Action
State or Federal National Park hereby certify that the entered in the See co	Service Certification e property is: National Register, ontinuation sheet, gible for the		of the Keeper		Date of Action
State or Federal . National Park : hereby certify that the	Service Certification e property is: National Register, ontinuation sheet, gible for the gister ontinuation sheet, at eligible for the		of the Keeper		Date of Action
State or Federal . National Park: hereby certify that the entered in the See co	Service Certification e property is: National Register, ontinuation sheet, gible for the gister ontinuation sheet, at eligible for the gister.		of the Keeper		Date of Action

ST.	JAMES	М.	Ε.	CHURCH	S-359
Name	of Property				•

Somer	Ŀ	County,	Mary	land
County and	State			

5. Classification			
Ownership of Property ck as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the co-	unt.)
✓ private☐ public-local☐ public-State	□ building(s)□ district□ site	Contributing Noncontributing	_ buildings
☐ public-State	structure object	•	
	_ 0.,000		
		1	_ Total
Name of related multiple part (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources previous In the National Register	ously listed
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	
RELIGION/Religious facility		RECREATION AND CULTURE/M	useum
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)	
LATE VICTORIAN/G	othic	foundation <u>Brick piers</u>	
		walls Weatherboards	
		roof Asphalt	
		other Weild	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

1076 Form 10-000-0

5-359

United States Department of the Interior Alational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section numb	er <u>7</u>	Page	
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DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

St. James Methodist Episcopal Church, built in two stages, is a single-story 1885 gable-roofed frame structure visually dominated by c. 1900 asymmetrical entrance towers that rise against the west elevation of the main block. Supported on a brick pier foundation, the building is sheathed with plain weatherboards, and the various gable roofs and tower are covered with asphalt shingles. Colored glass windows, framed by louvered shutters, light the sanctuary. The interior wall surfaces are finished with beaded board wainscoting and plaster, and plank pews fill the sanctuary. A balcony in the west end of the building is reached by an enclosed stair. The turned baluster balcony railing and altar railing are covered with a coat of graining in imitation of oak. Across Champ Road is a nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery, but is is not included within the boundary as nominated.

5-359

United States Department of the Interior Tational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Castian	number	7	Page	2
Section	HUHHUOH		, ago	

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

St. James Methodist Episcopal Church stands on the southeast corner of the intersection of Oriole Road (MD 627) and Champ Road in the vicinity of Oriole, Somerset County, Maryland. The single-story frame church faces west with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis. Across Champ Road is a nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery.

Built in two stages, this two-part frame church is supported by a brick pier foundation, and it is sheathed with a uniform layer of plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched roofs are covered with asphalt tile shingles, and the eaves are extended. Dated to 1885, the main body of the church was enlarged with the addition of the front towers and entrances around the turn of the twentieth century.

The (west) main facade is an asymmetrical three-bay elevation with separate double-door entrances in the side bays; the northwestern entrance pierces a three-story bell tower, while the southwestern entrance is entered through a two-story tower covered with a gable roof. entrances to each tower are filled with low-relief two-panel double doors. The second level of the northwestern entrance tower is marked by a multipane colored glass sash window, while the third level has long louvered openings on each side. The pyramidal roofed spire has flared eaves and gabled vents on each side. Small brackets mark the outside corners under the tower soffit. The two-story southwest entrance tower is covered by a plain gable-front roof, and a multi-pane colored glass sash window lights the second level. Lighting the upper gable of the main block is a small colored glass round window. Fixed in the southwest corner of the twostory tower is a marble datestone inscribed, "St. James M. E. Church." An earlier datestone of 1885 is set in the southwest front pier of the main block and carries the name, "St. John's Church.

Each side is three bays across, and large-sized colored glass windows fill each bay. Louvered shutters remain in place, and a narrow brick stove chimney rises through each side. Attached to the east (back) wall is a plain single-story apse with large colored glass windows piercing each side. Louvered shutters remain on these windows as well.

(continued)

5-359

United States Department of the Interior ational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	7	Page	3
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)
ST. JAMES METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Oriole vicinity, Somerset County, Maryland

The interior survives with a large portion of its late nineteenth century finishes intact. The former center entrance is a double-door opening topped by a four-light colored glass transom now sheltered by the center gabled bay. The original exterior doors remain in place with low relief panels accented by an ogee molding. The interior door surround has a reeded flat surface and an ogee backband. The sanctuary walls are finished with a beaded board wainscoting with plaster above, and the sanctuary ceiling is plastered as well. Iron tie rods stretch across the sanctuary to help stabilize the side walls.

Fitted into the west end of the sanctuary is a balcony with a paneled knee wall topped by a turned baluster railing. Access to the balcony is provided by an enclosed staircase that rises in the northwest corner. The stair is enclosed with vertical tongue-and-groove boards. Plain plank pews remain on a tiered balcony platform.

The sanctuary itself is furnished with painted plank pews that have a gracefully curved end board. The altar is distinguished by a turned baluster railing anchored at each end by stout newel posts that retain a layer of oak graining. To the right of the altar is an elevated choir platform also defined by a turned baluster handrail. The choir railing is supported by chamfered corner newel posts which are finished with pyramidal post heads.

Record # ___

8. S	tatement of Significance	
lark	icable National Register Criteria "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property alional Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
.Ji Na	aional negister listing.)	ARCHITECTURE
	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	
□В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
▼ C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance
□ D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	1885-1900
	ria Considerations "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates 1885
Prope	erty is:	1900
ŢŹ A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Simificant Dance
□В	removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
□ c	a birthplace or grave.	N/A
□ D	a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
□ E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
□F	a commemorative property.	
□ G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Architect/Builder Unknown
	tive Statement of Significance n the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
9. Ma	ajor Bibliographical References	
	ography ne books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one	or more continuation sheets.)
Previ	ous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	☐ State Historic Preservation Office ☐ Other State agency ☐ Federal agency ☐ Local government ☐ University ☒ Other Name of repository: SOMERSET COUNTY HISTORICAL
	# recorded by Historic American Engineering	TRUST, INC. Princess Anne, Maryland

NPS Ferm 19-800-s 8-49

United States Department of the Interior tional Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. James Methodist Episcopal Church is one of eighteen historic African-American churches recorded on the Somerset County inventory, and it is architecturally important as one of the most original with relatively intact exterior and interior finishes. Unlike most of the other churches in this group, St. James has not been used since the mid 1960s, thereby freeing it from many of the modern alterations that have been made to other churches for comfort or low maintenance concerns. The building has not been altered to any significant degree since the turn of the twentieth century and it is a rare, relatively intact survivor of late nineteenth century religious architecture as embraced by rural black congregations in Somerset County. Following in mainstream Methodism's devotion to the Gothic Revival as the proper style of church in which to worship, the St. James congregation opted for an asymmetrically designed front addition to an existing 1885 gable-front church. Towers of differing heights, incorporating entrances, flank a pointed arch tripartite window of colored glass. Inside the church, beaded waincoting and plaster finish the Remaining in the sanctuary are painted plank pews sanctuary walls. fitted with graceful curved end boards. The turned baluster altar rail and other interior woodwork retains a coat of oak graining.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Like many rural black congregations in Somerset County, the history of St. James M. E. Church is not complete. The first record of a church at this location near the head of St. Peter's Creek dates to the early 1870s when the trustees of "Manokin Chapel," as the congregation was known at the time, purchased one-half acre of land from Isaac S. and Susan H. Atkinson. The Atkinsons were owners of "Almodington" during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. The conveyance states that:

the said Isaac S. Atkinson and Susan H. Atkinson his wife have granted bargained and sold and by these presents do grant bargain and sell unto the said Trustees of Manokin Chapel their heirs and successors forever all that tract or part of a tact of land wherein said Chapel now stands, situate and laying near the head of St. Peter's Creek in Somerset County, State of Maryland.

It seems reasonable to believe that the congregation of Manokin Chapel had erected a church on this site probably within a short time prior to this transaction, and they moved to secure legal title to the land. An exact date of formation for the congregation has not been found.

(continued)

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United States Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

HISTORIC CONTEXT
ST. JAMES M. E. CHURCH
Oriole vicinity, Somerset County, Maryland

Four years following this deed, the church and an adjacent school were identified on the Princess Anne district map in the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas. The congregation at "Manokin Chapel" replaced their initial church in 1885, and at the same time, the members evidently renamed the congregation, St. John's Methodist Church. Although there is no official record for this alteration in name, the marble datestone in the southwest pier is so inscribed.

Four years later, in May 1889, the congregation was reincorporated under the name of St. James Church of the Methodist Episcopal Church with Littleton Maddox, Isaac Waters, Charles Johnson, Henry Maddox, Joseph Johnson, Southy Wilkins, George Maddox, Joseph Waters, and William Coulbourn cited as trustees under the Reverend Lewis Toulson. A little over a month later, a legal conveyance including the half-acre lot and its improvments was made between the Manokin Chapel of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church and the trustees of the St. James Church of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In July 1889, the St. James congregation acquired another parcel of land from Isaac Atkinson for the purpose of erecting a parsonage.

Finally, around 1900, the congregation decided to erect a new front to their rectangular gable-front church, probably in an effort to keep up with the current fashion in religious architecture that swept Somerset County as well as the nation during the second half of the nineteenth century. In accord with Gothic design popular at the time, asymmetrical towers were built to each side of a tripartite pointed arch, colored glass window. In the process of adding the towers, the former front, double-door entrance and colored glass transom was obscurred, and entrance to the church was divided between the two tower doorways. It was probably at this time as well that the balcony was erected to hold an increasing congregation. The church continued in operation until 1964, when it was closed by the Delaware Methodist Conference of which it was a part.

United States Department of the Interior ational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 6

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Graham, John L. The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Salisbury, Maryland: Peninsula Press, 1976.

Maryland Historical Trust Inventory of Historic Properties, Somerset County, S-359, Somerset County Historical Trust, Inc., Princess Anne, Maryland.

Somerset County Land Records, various volumes, Somerset County Courthouse, Princess Anne.

Telephone conversation with Ellene Bradshaw, member of the Oriole Historical Socity, May 1994.

Touart, Paul Baker. <u>Somerset: An Architectural History</u>. Princess Anne, Maryland and Annapolis, Maryland: <u>Somerset County Historical Trust</u>, Inc. and the Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
reage of Property VSGS austin Monie, MD UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) 1	3 Zone Easting Northing 4 See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectura	al Historian
organization Private Consultant	date5/17/94
street & number P. 0. Box 5	telephone (410) 651-1094
city or town Westover	
Additional Documentation	
bmit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the	property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties have	ring large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the	property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
name Oriole Historical Society, Inc	c. % Ellene Bradshaw
street & number 20370 Red Hill Lane. Box	75 telephone (410) 873-28 4 8
city or townNanticoke	state Maryland zip code 21840
perwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and	for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain

a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NPS Ferm 10-800-s

United States Department of the Interior ational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 7

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Somerset County Land Record, ITP 389/677

All that lot of land situate as aforesaid, near the head of St. Peters Creek and located on the Easterly side of the road leading to the mouth of St. Peters Creek, and beginning at a stone set up on the County road leading to the mouth of St. Peters Creek, and thence (1) South by and with said road 70 yards to a stone being a second bounder; thence (2) East the distance of 35 yards to a stone being a third bounder; thence (3) North the distance of 70 yards to a stone set up on the County Road being the fourth bounder; thence (4) to the place of beginning, containing one-half (1/2) acre of land more or less.

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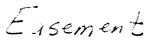
United States Department of the Interior ational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 8

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The half-acre that joins this church in nomination comprises the immediate ground around the building, and the nominated boundary lines are coincidental with the lines described in the current deed of ownership. The cemetery, located across the road, has not been included within the scope of this nomination.



Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. \$359

Magi No. 2003595608

DOE __yes __no

1. Nan	1e (indicate pr	eferred name)		
historic St	. James M.E. Church			-
and/or common				
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	Intersection of M). 627 and Champ Roa	ad -	not for publication
city, town	Oriole	x_ vicinity of	congressional district	First
state	Maryland	county	Somerset	
3. Clas	sification			
Category districtX building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered not_applicable	Status occupied _X_ unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted _X yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
<u>4. Own</u>	er of Prope	rty (give names a	nd mailing addresse	s of <u>all</u> owners)
name Trust	tees of St. James M.	E. Church		
street & number			telephone n	0.:
city, town	Oriole	state	and zip code MD.	
	ation of Lega		- riD .	
		k of Circuit Court		liber
street & number	Somerset County C	ourthouse		folio
city, town	Princess Anne		state	MD. 21853
6. Repi	resentation	in Existing	Historical Surv	eys
title				
da te			federal stat	e county local
depository for su	rvey records			-,
city, town			state	

7	Dac	orin	tion
	DC2	crip	tion

Survey No. S-359

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Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

St. James Methodist Episcopal Church stands on the southeast corner of the intersection of Oriole Road (MD 627) and Champ Road near Oriole, Somerset County, Maryland. The single-story frame church faces west with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis. Accompanying the church is a nineteenth-century graveyard.

Built in two stages this combination frame church is supported by a brick pier foundation, and it is sheathed with a uniform layer of weatherboards. The steeply pitched roofs are covered with asphalt tile shingles. Dated to 1885, the main body of the church was extensively reworked with the addition of the front towers and new windows around the turn of the century.

The west (main) facade is an asymmetrical three-bay elevation with separate double door entrances in the end bays. A small gabled bay spans the distance between the two entrances, and it is lighted by a tripartite window of colored glass. The entrances to each side are flush two-panel doors, and the north door pierces the bell tower. The second level of the tower is marked by a multi-pane colored glass sash, while the third level has long louvered openings on each side. The pyramidal spire has flared eaves and gabled vents define each side. Small corner brackets mark the outside corners under the tower soffit. The two-story south tower is covered by a plain gabled roof, and a multi-pane colored glass sash window lights the second level. Lighting the upper gable of the main block is a small colored glass round window. Fixed in the southwest corner of the two-story tower is a marble datestone inscribed, "St. James M.E. Church." In addition, an earlier date plaque of 1885 is set in the front pier of the main block on the south side.

Each side is three bays deep and lighted by large-sized colored glass windows. Louvered shutters remain on most of the windows, and a narrow brick stove rises from each side. Attached to the east (back) end of the main block is a simple single-story apse.

The interior was not fully inspected, but it was clear that an old exterior double door survives behind the tower entrance on the northwest corner. Now located in a vestibule, the door retains its ogee inset molding that frames the four-panel double door. A four-light transom tops the entrance.

8. 5	ign	iticance				Survey	No. S-	359
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Specific	dates	1885		Builder/Arc	hitect		-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	an	cable Criteria: d/or cable Exception:				EFG		
	Level	of Significance:	ı	national	state	local		
Prepare support.	both	a summary paragra	ph of	f signific	cance and	a general st	atement	of history and

8. Significance

St. James M.E. Church is a prominent landmark standing along the Oriole Road in the small community of Oriole. Located at an important rural intersection, the church and cemetery are significant sites that distinguish the area. St. James is one of the more elaborate black Methodist churches in Somerset County with its three-story bell tower.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-359

10. Geographical I	Data	
Acreage of nominated property Quadrangle name UTM References do NOT complete U		Quadrangle scale
A Zone Easting Northing	B Zone	Easting Northing
C	D F H	
Verbal boundary description and justi	fication	
List all states and counties for proper	rties overlapping state or	county boundaries
state C	ode county	code
state	code county	code
11. Form Prepared	Ву	
name/title Paul Touart - Arc	hitectural Historian	
organization Somerset County Hist	orical Trust	date 6/02/86
street & number 424 N. Somerset Av	renue	telephone 651-0077
city or town Princess Anne		state MD. 21853

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

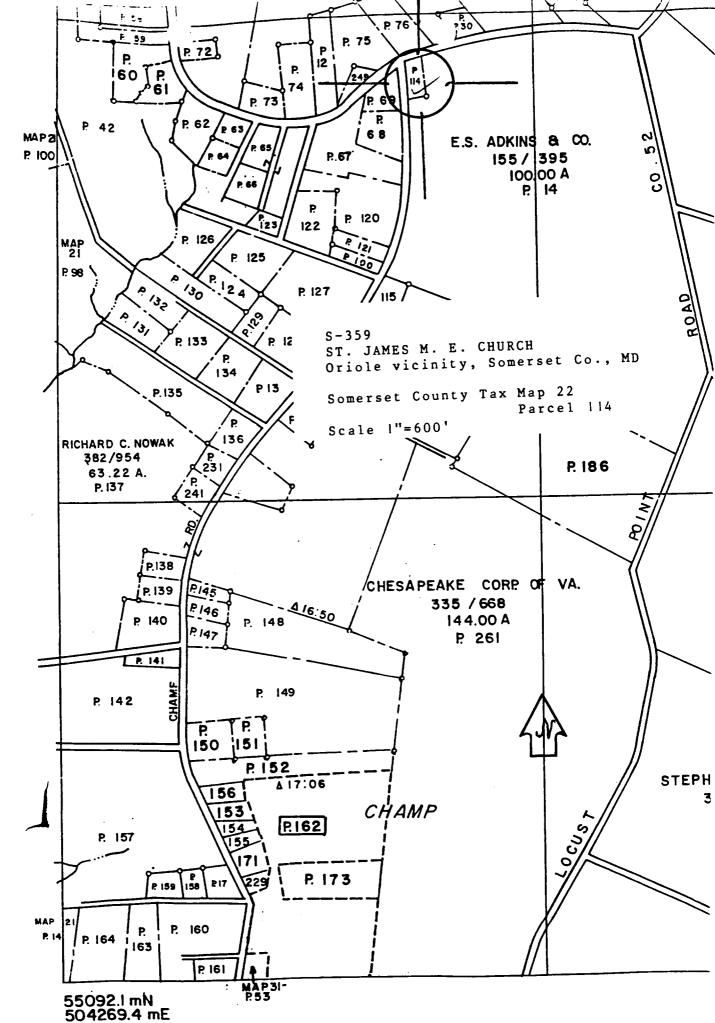
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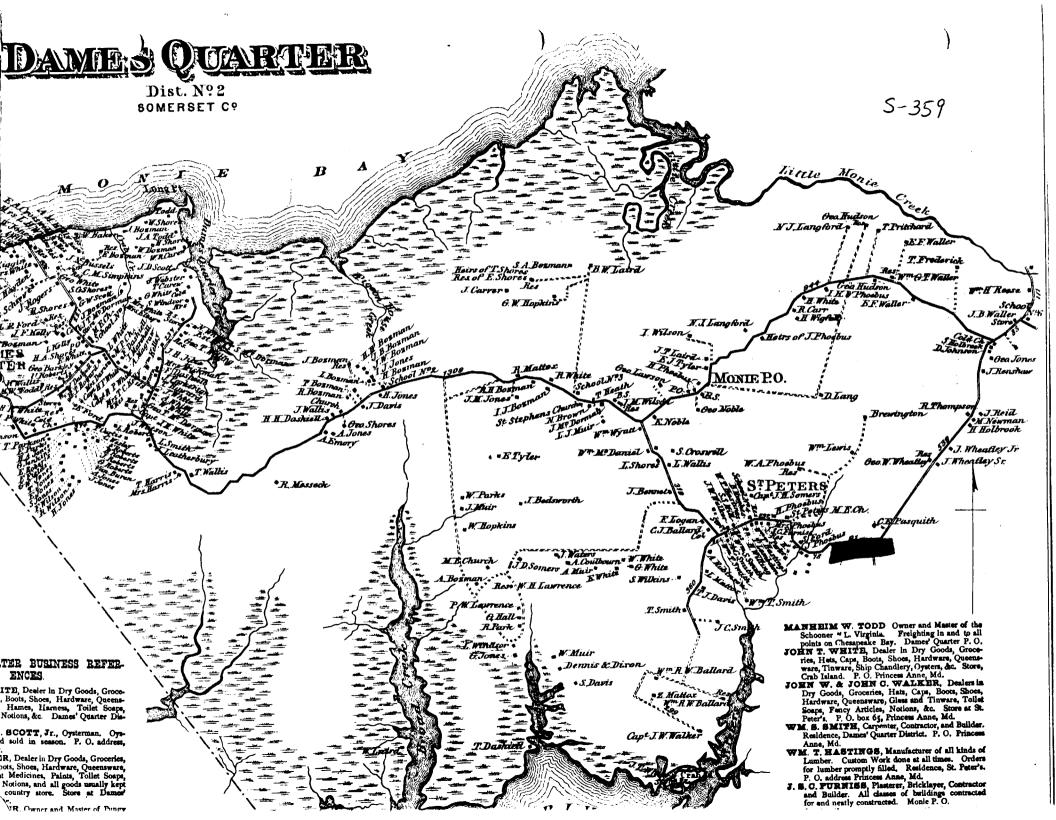
Maryland Historical Trust

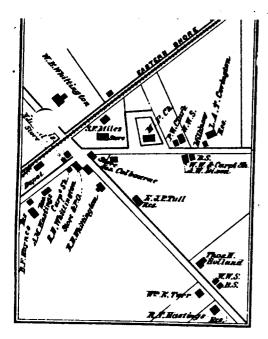
Shaw House 21 State Circle

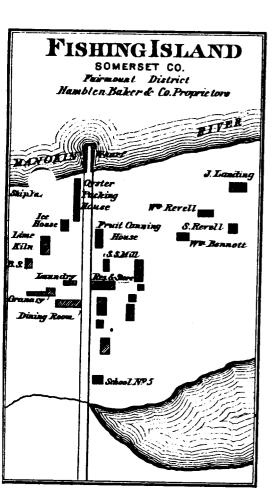
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438









FIRHING IELAND BUSINESS REFER-ENCES.

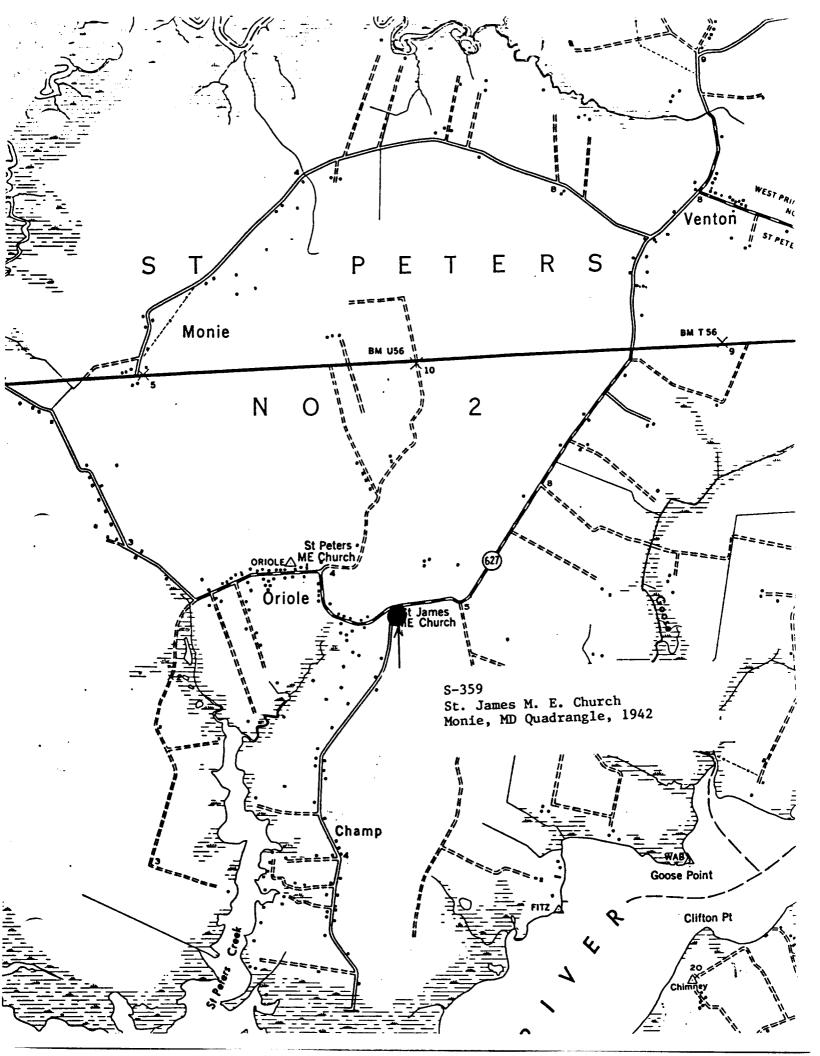
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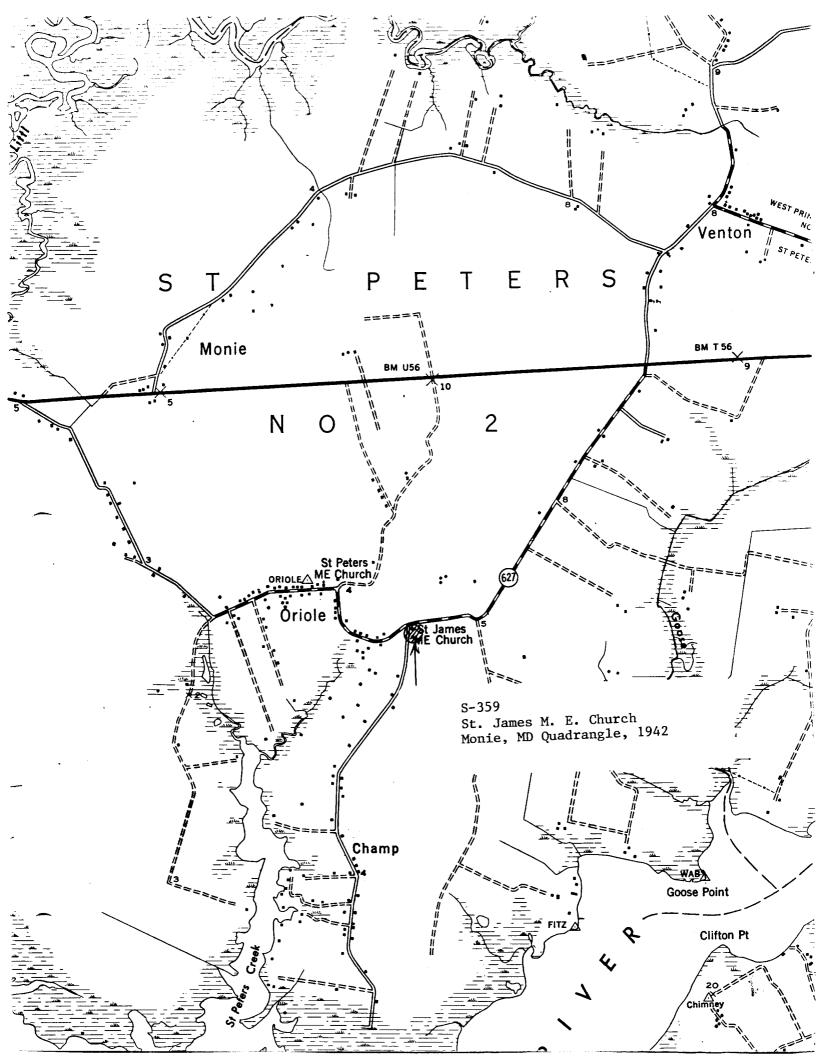
Dist.Nº1
SOMERSET CO.



S-359
ST. JAMES M. E. CHURCH
Oriole vicinity, Somerset Co., MD

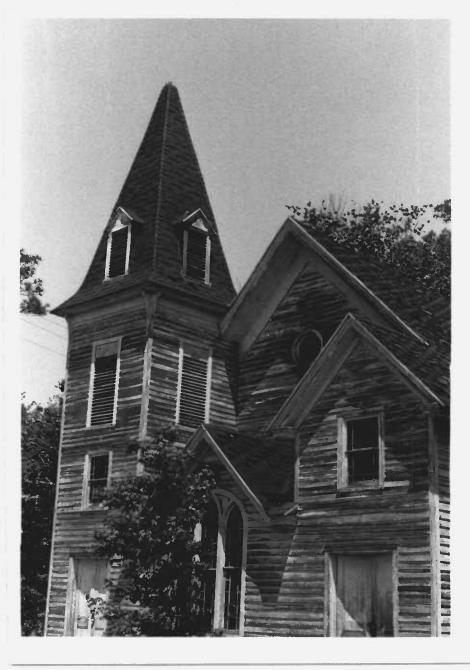
1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas Princess Anne District







St. James M.E. Church S-359 Champ Vicinity, Somerset Co., MD West Elevation 5/86, Paul Touart, Photographer Neg./ MD Hist. Trust



St. James M.E. Church S-359
Champ vicinity, Somerset Co., Md.

When the Elevation of Tower
6/86, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



St. James M.E. Church S-359 Champ vicinity, Somerset Co., MD West elevation 5/86, Paul Touart, Photographer Neg./MD Hist. Trust



St. James M.E. Church S-359 Champ Vicinity, Somerset Co., MD West Elevation 5/86 Paul Touart, Photographer Neg./ MD Hist. Trust